

सीधा संबंध है। हड़ताल हो तो तालाबंदी होती है और तालाबंदी के लिए भी हड़ताल होती है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से खासकर जानना चाहूंगा कि जिन राज्यों में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट स्पा र्ड्स हड़तालें होती हैं और खासकर के पश्चिमी बंगाल और केरल के बारे में मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि यहां पर कितनी हड़तालें हुईं तथा कितना नुकसान हुआ और रेस्ट आफ दि कंट्री में कितना नुकसान हुआ?

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: मैंने अभी जो आंकड़े दिए, उनमें जो सर्वाधिक है वह क्यों सर्वाधिक है, मैं इस बात को बोलकर कोई विवाद खड़ा नहीं करना चाहता।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: वे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट स्पा र्ड्स हड़ताल के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं।

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: सर, सबसे बड़ी मुश्किल यह है कि चाहे वह हड़ताल हो या तालाबंदी, उसमें सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित मज़दूर ही होता है। इसलिए सरकार की यह कोशिश और चिंता होती है कि चाहे वह हड़ताल हो या तालाबंदी, उसको चर्चाओं के माध्यम से हल करके उसका निराकरण किया जाए और उसमें मज़दूर के हित को संरक्षित किया जाए।

श्री सूर्यभान पाटीण वहाडणे: सभापति जी। एक छोटा सा सवाल है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, अभी नहीं। अभी नहीं। 20 मिनट हो गए हैं इस सवाल पर।

लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र में विदेशी पूंजी निवेश

*343. श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

श्री राज मोहिन्द्र सिंह:†

क्या लघु उद्योग और कृषि एवं ग्रामीण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार कतिपय क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत लघु उद्योगों में विदेशी पूंजी निवेश के लिए 49 प्रतिशत तक की स्वीकृति देने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में प्रस्ताव क्या है;

(ग) ये कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र के लघु उद्योग हैं; और

(घ) इन उद्योगों में अब तक कितने प्रतिशत विदेशी पूंजी निवेश की अनुमति थी?

लघु उद्योग, कृषि और ग्रामीण उद्योग मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं।

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया।

(घ) वर्तमान में 24% की विदेशी ईक्विटी को भागीदारी अनुमेय है।

Foreign Capital Investment in Small Industries Sector

*343. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:††

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give sanction for foreign capital investment upto 49 per cent in small industries under certain sectors;

(b) if so, what is the proposal in this regard;

(c) the names of the sectors of these small industries; and

(d) the percentage of foreign capital investment allowed hitherto in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) 24% foreign equity participation is permitted at present.

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, आपके माध्यम से मैं मिनिस्टर साहिबा से निवेदन करूंगा कि मैंने जो सवाल किया था, उसका जवाब "No" में आया है लेकिन फिर भी मैं इन्फॉर्मेशन के लिए उनसे जानना चाहूंगा कि अभी स्मॉल इंडस्ट्रीज़ सैक्टर में जो 24 परसेंट फॉरेन इन्वेस्टमेंट एलाऊ किया गया है, क्या आने वाले समय में उसको बढ़ाने का कोई प्रपोज़ल है कि इसको बढ़ाकर 49 परसेंट कर दिया जाए? महोदय, गवर्नमेंट का पहले यह प्रपोज़ल था, यह अखबारों में भी आया था। तो मैं मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहता हूं कि आने वाले समय में क्या फॉरेन इन्वेस्टमेंट को 24 परसेंट से बढ़ाकर 49 परसेंट करने का कोई प्रपोज़ल है?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, equity participation

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Raj Mohinder Singh.

up to 24% has been allowed from the 1st of January, 1993, and the policy announcement was made on the 6th of August, 1991. The idea was to provide the small-scale industries an access to capital market so as to encourage modernisation, technology upgradation, ancilliaryisation and sub-contracting. Perhaps, this apprehension in the mind of the hon. Member arises out of the fact that the Gupta Committee just made some recommendations that were put up before the Committee of Secretaries. However, this recommendation has been turned down by the Committee of Secretaries. They have also now made that recommendation to the Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers is still discussing this issue. However, as of today, there is no proposal in this regard and the limit of 24% which was set in 1991, and also before the WTO, remains.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the policy of reservation for the small-scale sector was substantially modified in the policy of 1991 and which, as per the admission of the hon. Minister, is still continuing. May I know from the Minister whether her Ministry has made an assessment of the state of health of the small-scale sector after a development — which is not strictly because of the small-scale sector itself but because of certain things that have taken place with the removal of the Quantitative Restrictions on a large number of imported items which were manufactured in the small-scale sector which cannot face the competition? In view of that, I want to know whether any assessment, with a view to overcoming the adverse impact of this development, has been made in regard to the state of health of the small-scale sector which is contributing substantially to the GDP and the export earning.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, there has been a sea-change in the global industrial and economic scenario since 1996 due to the WTO conditionalities and also because of the removal of the QRs and the placement of 643 items on OGL, out of the 812 items which were reserved for manufacture in the small-scale sector. Because of this, it is very, very important that technology upgradation and linkages with large-scale sector become a necessity. There is a need for greater support from other industrial undertakings. However, there are some problems which have to be

taken into account. First of all, and the most important of all, is the fact that there is weakness in the infrastructure, and there is also an apprehension about the WTO. As far as the infrastructural weaknesses are concerned, we are discussing this with the State Governments that are involved. As far as the WTO is concerned, we have done a series of workshops in trying to explain to the people what the future holds for them. But, Sir, I would only like to say over here that if you look at the growth rate of the SSIs, in comparison to that of the industry in general, you will still see that the growth has been much, much better. I will just give you an example. In 1991-92, the small-scale sector's growth was 3.1% and that of the industrial sector was 0.6%. In 1995-96, it was 11.4% in the case of the small-scale sector, and in the case of industrial sector, it was much lower. Similarly, this continues right up to 1999. As far as the first quarter of 2000 is concerned, we have not been able to compile it. So, it continues. If support is given to them; if an enabling condition is provided for them; if confidence is built up in them; then, I think we will be able to take them through the stage of transition and make them into viable and vibrant sectors. This is what is required today because these are the sectors which provide the largest amount of employment. The Government is sensitive and alert to this issue.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: महोदय, मंत्री महोदया ने पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर से जहां खत्म किया है मैं वहां से प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं क्योंकि मूल प्रश्न में मंत्री महोदया ने छोटा सा जवाब दे दिया कि ऐसा कोई विषय चर्चा में नहीं है। लेकिन जब पूरक प्रश्न पूछा गया तो मंत्री महोदया ने कहा कि स्मॉल स्केल-लघु उद्योगों में वाएबल भी है अब तक कम्पैरेटिवली और ज्यादा लोगों को रोजगार भी मिल रहा है। हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स के 28 जुलाई 2000 के संस्करण में एक रिपोर्ट आई है जिसमें कहा गया कि सरकार एक ग्रुप आफ मिनिस्टर्स बनाकर के जिसके आइवाणी जी हैड हैं और इसमें कॉमर्स मिनिस्टर, टेक्सटाईल्स मिनिस्टर और फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर हैं तथा 15 ऐसे क्षेत्र जो लघु उद्योगों के लिए रिजर्व किए हुए हैं उन्हें भी मल्टी नेशनल के लिए या लार्ज स्केल के लिए खोलने के लिए चर्चा में है। मंत्री महोदया ने मूल प्रश्न में कहा कि ऐसा कोई विषय चर्चा में नहीं है क्योंकि यह प्रश्न में ही 49 परसेंट पूछ लिया गया था। लेकिन पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रुप आफ मिनिस्टर्स चर्चा कर रहे हैं। तो मैं मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या कोई ऐसा ग्रुप आफ मिनिस्टर्स बनाया गया है, यदि हां तो उसमें कौन-कौन मंत्री हैं और

उनको क्या रिफ्रेंस दिया गया है कि किस-किस विषय में वे चर्चा कर रहे हैं? तथा वह कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र हैं और 15 आईटम्स की वह लिस्ट क्या है जिसे आप खोलना चाह रहे हैं या खोलने के विषय में चर्चा करनी है?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the Group of Ministers was constituted on the 28th June, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Shri L.K. Advani, the Minister of Home Affairs. Sir, the other members of the Group are; the Minister of Commerce and Industry; the Minister of Textiles; the Minister of Finance; the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission; and myself. The terms of reference were to formulate an integrated balanced package of policy measures which would be important to strengthen the SSI sector, in the context of the dismantling of QRs; and also on the basis of the Gupta Committee Report, to evolve a road map for selective dereservation in respect of certain products which are presently reserved for the SSI sector. As far as the Group of Ministers is concerned, this is under discussion. No decision has been taken because we are very, very sensitive to the fact that the small-scale industry has to be taken through its transition period. No selective dereservation will also take place unless talks are held with the people concerned and they themselves wish to have that.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: महोदय, मंत्री महोदया से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अब वह रिलाइजेशन को चुका है कि सर्टेन सेक्टर्स में जैसे टॉय इंडस्ट्री है या क्रोकरी इंडस्ट्री है वे स्मॉल स्केल में बहुत कुछ नहीं कर पा रही हैं और चायना वगैरह के कम्पटीशन में हम कहीं नहीं टिक पा रहे हैं। लेकिन ये एरियाज स्मॉल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज के लिए रिजर्व कर रखे हैं। तो क्या उनको डि-रिजर्व करने का इरादा है?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: No. As far as the toy industry is concerned, Sir I can say very categorically that, at this moment, there is no such proposal. As far as crockery or any of these items are concerned, there is no such move.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the cost of living has gone up manifold in the last few years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has decided to raise the investment limit for plant and machinery from Rs. 1 crore to

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RAJYA SABHA

Rs. 5 crores. If it is so, would the Government like to reconsider increasing it in high-tech industries with export potential so that even the FDI can go, at least, up to 49 per cent?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, there was proposal which was part of the Gupta Committee Report—which is being studied, at the moment, by the Group of Ministers—in which there was a suggestion that export oriented and high-tech areas could be considered for increasing it from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores. However, this is still under the consideration of the Group of Ministers. No decision has been taken in this regard.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to my Unstarred Question No. 2161 dated 10th August, 2000, which is, more or less, on the same subject. Here, the Minister had said that 24% lucrative participation is permitted. The Government should assure the small-scale sector that it would not permit more than 24% equity. The items reserved for the small-scale sector should also not be dereserved. Would the Minister assure this on the floor of the House?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have discussed it at great length.

Commercialization of Agriculture

344. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any new scheme to encourage cost effective crops in the country for the commercialization of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the crops which would be covered thereunder?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lajpat Rai.